

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A purified nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes an XB3 protein and comprises SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the protein has an amino acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 4 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the protein specifically binds to XA21.

Claim 5 (original): A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1.

Claim 6 (original): The vector of claim 5, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to one or more expression control sequences.

Claim 7 (previously amended): A cell comprising the purified nucleic acid of claim 1.

Claims 8-18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (currently amended): A method of modifying a plant cell or seed, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a plant cell or seed;
- (b) introducing into the plant cell or seed a purified nucleic acid that encodes XB3 protein and comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claims 20-24 (canceled)